

NSC BRIEFING

2 August 1955

## ISRAELI ELECTIONS BACKGROUND

- I. All 120 members of Israel's parliament (Knesset) are elected by universal suffrage. This year 85% of total electorate of over 1,000,000 voted.
- II. Voters vote for national party lists, not individual candidates from single constituencies, as in US. Seats in parliament are distributed according to the percentage of popular vote each list receives, but a party must get at least  $\frac{1}{11}$  to obtain a seat.
- III. Following shows percentage of popular vote received by parties with more than  $\frac{1}{11}$ % this year (final unofficial returns):

RIGHT:	1955	1951
Herut (Freedom)	13.25	6.6
Agudat Religious Front (Corporation of Israel) (extreme orthodox, non-Zionist)	5.14	3.6
General Zionists	<u>10.91</u> 29.35	<u>16.2</u> 26.4
MODERATE LABOR & LEFT OF CENTER:		
Mizrachi Religious Front (Spiritual Center) (moderate orthodox Zionist)	9.81	8.3
Progressives	4.6	3.2
Mapai (Workers' Party)	<u>31.91</u> 46.02	<u>37.3</u> 48.8

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

DOCUMENT NO. 3  
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
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LEFT:	1955	1951
Achdut Haavoda (Unity of Labor)	8.05	12.5
Mapam (United Labor Party)	7.0	
Maki (Communist Party)	4.0	4.0
	<u>19.05</u>	<u>16.5</u>

ARABS:

Israel Arab Democrats	1.28	2.4
Progress and Work	1.39	1.2
	<u>2.67</u>	<u>3.6</u>